



**JOINT READINESS TRAINING CENTER  
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*News Release***

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### **Picerne scholarships awarded, final day for grants**

FORT POLK, La. - Our Family for Families First, a private, charitable foundation founded by John G. Picerne, awarded 21 scholarships to military family members graduating in the classes of 2006 and 2007 at a luncheon in Washington, D.C., June 16. Picerne is the chief executive officer of Picerne Military Housing.

Scholarship recipients and their families joined R.I. Rep. Patrick Kennedy and foundation board members at the Watergate Hotel for an award luncheon. Maria Montalvo, foundation executive director, Picerne and Kennedy shared inspirational words with the teenagers and their families.

"You are the future of this country. It is you who are great examples of what we all should be — involved in our communities and doing things for others. You have so much going for you," said Picerne. "I am honored to be able to help change your lives and look forward to seeing who you become."

Kennedy applauded Picerne's efforts to change the lives of military family members.

"No one else deserves this more than the sons and daughters of our Soldiers who already give their lives to the service of this great country," said Kennedy.

Recipients received an expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C., and a room at the historic Watergate Hotel. Families also enjoyed a guided tour of the city that included stops at the Capitol, White House, Vietnam Memorial, Jefferson Memorial, Korean War Memorial, World War II Memorial, Lincoln Memorial and Washington Monument.

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## SCHOLARSHIPS 2/2/2

Twenty-one high school seniors were selected to receive \$25,000 to \$40,000 scholarships to attend college in 2007. Awards were based on merit and need.

Fort Polk winners:

\*A'Rel Boies is 17 and considering a number of universities to attend in the fall, including Southern University A&M. She graduated as a National Merit Scholar from Leesville High School.

\*Tonia Boies is 17 and a member of the Congressional Student Leadership Conference, and an early graduate of the 2007 class of Leesville High School.

\*Jasmine Windom is 18 and will attend Northwestern State University, majoring in early childhood education.

Our Family for Families First was created to support the spouses and children of active-duty Soldiers assigned to Picerne Military Housing installations at Fort Polk, Fort Bragg, N.C., Fort Meade, Md., Fort Rucker, Ala., Fort Riley, Kan., and future Picerne installations. However, families do not have to reside in on-post housing to qualify for grants or scholarships. The foundation supports military families in the pursuit of higher education, instituting a tradition of community service and encouraging professional career paths through education, internships and mentoring programs. It also serves to further the primary mission of Picerne Military Housing, "Putting military Families first."